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study—are very well written; the material is well organized; the references have been carefully selected and the parts are well balanced. Prothero's *Pioneers and Progress of English Farming* is a quarter of a century old; does not cover the early period, and lacks many of the good features of Curtler's treatment. There are many separate volumes which treat of special questions for the entire period or all questions for a special period, but none are complete. The work being reviewed makes extensive use of these; e.g., parts of Ashley, Gibbins, and Cunningham are extensively quoted; Seebohm, Vinogradoff, Paige, Maitland, Nasse, Gomme, Andrews, Davenport, and others, as well as early documents, are used on the period of the manors; Garnier, Slater, Hasbach, and others on the problems of the agricultural laborer and the peasant classes have been used. Indeed, the footnotes show that no stone was left unturned in the effort to produce the best results. The text is divided into twenty-six chapters showing keen analysis of the distinctive characteristics of the important problems and periods. I believe the book to be the most comprehensive study of the evolution of that important industry from 1300 to 1908 which has yet been written.

Johnson's *The Disappearance of the Small Landowner* is a series of eight lectures (the Ford Lectures), limited carefully to the special subject being considered. Aside from the introductory lecture, the author, in four well-written chapters, carefully reviews the movement during the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, inclusive. In each case the facts are given showing the decline of small land-ownership and the political, social, and other agricultural and industrial changes accompanying, together with the economic and other causes which were at work. This is preceded by a lecture on the great Plague and its results. In the concluding lecture the author compares the position of the English farmer with the small owners in France, Belgium, and Germany.

One important position taken by Mr. Johnson is that the influence of the English law of primogeniture and entails has been much exaggerated. He maintains that custom and economic forces have been more potent factors than legislation. The volume is a very valuable contribution to our literature on that subject for the important period covered.

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*Women in Industry: A Study in Economic History.* By EDITH ABBOTT. With an Introductory Note by S. P. BRECKINRIDGE. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1910. Pp. xxii+409. \$2.00.

It is but natural that the subject of *Women in Industry* should have proved an attractive one to women engaged in the study of economic problems. Indeed it seems surprising that such a study should not have been made before, considering the interest and the importance of the subject. But, except for Professor Lucy Salmon's volume on the special topic of *Domestic Service*, no thorough account of woman's industrial career in this country has been written. The volume now presented affords therefore for the first time an adequate historical background by which to measure and judge modern practical problems. The struggle of women today for a larger share of economic activity is often

regarded as a new phenomenon and one fraught with ill to society and the republic. Dr. Abbott shows, however, that while the employment of women in the professions and in commercial business is modern, they have taken part in industry since colonial times. "Women in industry" are not new, and the cry that they are displacing men is unfair. The reverse is nearer the truth. The field of employment open to women prior to the Civil War has usually been thought to have been very restricted, owing partly perhaps to a widespread misquotation from Harriet Martineau to that effect. Dr. Abbott, however, enumerates upward of a hundred different industries in which women were engaged before 1840. The increase in gainful employment among women in recent years has not been in the industrial field. Rather, women have entered the ever-widening occupations of trade and transportation along with men. Dr. Abbott properly points out that a clear distinction must be made between questions relating to the employment of professional women and those relating to the employment of women in industry. To the latter alone she addresses herself, and gives the history and statistics of the employment of women in industry in America from colonial times to the present.

Before the establishment of the factory system the most important occupations open to women were spinning and weaving. Not only were women expected to work at these and similar household tasks, but there was rigid insistence upon their employment. The problem of woman in industry during colonial times was one of fear lest she should be idle. When machinery was introduced the women followed it into the factories, especially in the textile industries. Now the problem was to find enough laborers to run the new machinery, and it was to the women that employers of labor first looked for assistance. This is interestingly illustrated by the fact, cited by Dr. Abbott, that the first machinery was so constructed as to be easily run by women. Later, when there was a sufficiently large supply of men available for the textile industries, heavier machines were introduced. The employment of women was a clear economic gain to the nation at a time when the country needed all the labor force available for the exploitation of its resources, for the building of improved means of transportation, and for similar lines of development. Indeed, one of the most interesting features of our economic development is the fact, pointed out by Dr. Abbott, that the character and extent of the industrial employment of women has varied with changes in the available labor supply. The increase in the number of men, due to immigration, made the labor of women less necessary and permitted the introduction of heavier machinery. At the same time new fields of employment of a professional and commercial character were opening up to women. The changes that occurred in the early textile mills are interestingly told in a chapter on "Early Mill Operatives," already published in the *Journal of Political Economy*.

Detailed studies are made of five important industries, which together employed over half of all women engaged in manufacturing industries in 1905; these are the cotton industry, manufacture of boots and shoes, cigar making, the clothing industry, and printing. In conclusion the author sums up the case as follows: "The woman of the working classes was self-supporting and was expected to be self-supporting more than three-quarters of a century ago, and even long before that she was reproached for 'eating the bread of idleness.'"

The efforts of the professional woman to realize a new ideal of pecuniary independence, which have taken her out of the home and into new and varied occupations, belong to recent, if not contemporary history. But this history, for her, covers a social revolution, and the world she faces is a new one. The woman of the working classes finds it, so far as her measure of opportunity goes, very much as her great-grandmother left it."

The volume is an important addition to the economic history of the United States, and discusses in a scholarly fashion a most interesting and noteworthy phase of our industrial development. Dr. Abbott has shown herself an able as well as a sympathetic historian of the industrial career of her sex in this country. She displays a firm grasp of the subject, judicial powers of analysis, and draws eminently fair conclusions. Confined almost entirely to a consideration of the extent and nature of women's employment, the study does not discuss, except incidentally, such questions as hours, conditions of work, factory legislation, etc., though there is a chapter on women's wages. It may be noted that Tench Coxe's name is misspelled throughout the volume.

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*The Last American Frontier.* By FREDERIC L. PAXSON. New York: Macmillan, 1910. 8vo, pp. xi+402. \$1.50 net.

The significance of the frontier as a factor in American history is rapidly coming to receive the recognition which is its due. As yet, however, the details of frontier life and the settlement of the West have not been given adequate attention, this being especially true of the period after the frontier passed beyond the Mississippi. Hence the present volume, primarily concerned with this period, will be particularly serviceable.

The struggle for the last frontier, according to our author, covers the years from 1821 to 1885. At the former date the apex of the wedge which marked the frontier rested at the bend of the Missouri River. Beyond was that great unknown, "the American desert." Monroe, who was the first to formulate a real Indian policy, assumed that at this point the frontier had reached its final resting-place, and proposed to set aside the region beyond the Missouri as a permanent Indian country to which the eastern tribes were to be moved. This policy was rapidly carried out in the early 30's, so that by 1840 there existed an unbroken line running through that point and extending from the Red River and Texas to the lakes beyond which all the important Indian tribes had migrated. In the meantime the white population was pouring into the lands thus vacated. The author's treatment of the history of the frontier up to this point is relatively brief, being introductory to his study of the frontier beyond the Mississippi in which his chief interest lies.

The process by which the western Indian country, so long thought of as a desert, came to be really known, was a slow one, and the real settlement of the region was slower yet. A knowledge of the section was gradually obtained through those who entered it for exploration, for trade, or in the search for gold. The information obtained by the early trappers was never widespread. The commerce over the Santa Fé trail, always small, was of some help, and the